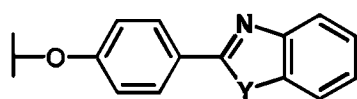


AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

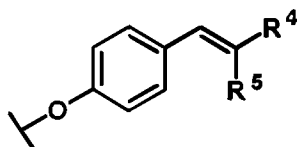
The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24. (canceled)

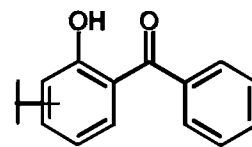
25. (previously presented) A cosmetic composition comprising a conjugate comprising a hyperbranched polymer covalently bonded to at least three UV absorbing chromophores having an UV absorption maximum $\lambda_{\max} \geq 270$ nm selected from the group consisting of the moieties represented by general formulae:



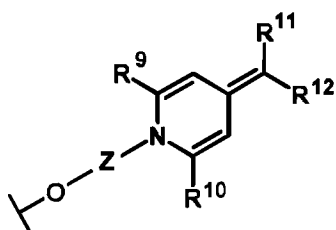
(V-A)



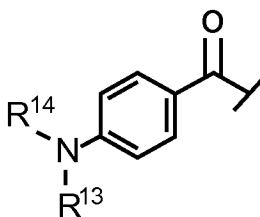
(V-B)



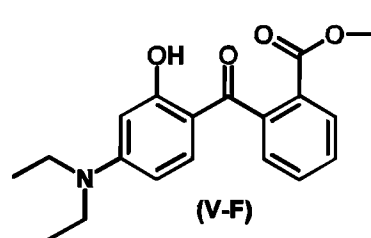
(V-C)



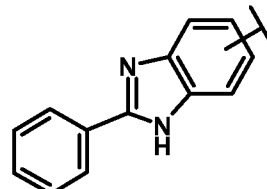
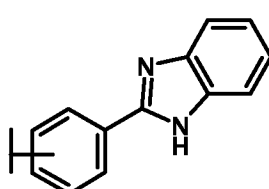
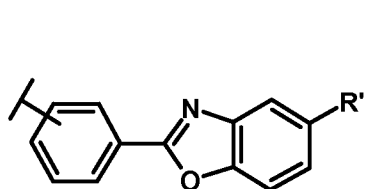
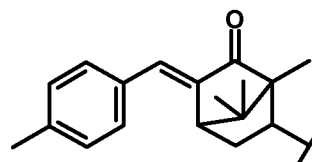
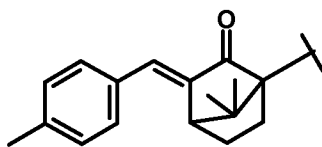
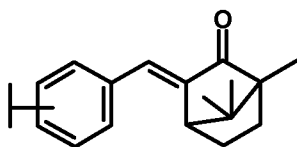
(V-D)



(V-E)



(V-F)



wherein

Y is O or NR³ wherein R³ is H, C₁-C₆-alkyl or C₂-C₆-alkenyl;

R⁴ and R⁵ are independently H, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, CO₂H, CO₂-C₁-C₆-alkyl, or R⁴ and R⁵ together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 6-membered phenyl ring;

R⁹ and R¹⁰ are independently H or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R¹¹ and R¹² are independently H, C₁-C₆-alkyl, NO₂, CO₂-C₁-C₆-alkyl or CN;

Z is C₁-C₆-alkylene, optionally interrupted by 1 to 3 oxygen atoms;

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently H, OR¹⁵, NR¹⁶R¹⁷ or C₁-C₆-alkyl; and

R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are independently selected from H and C₁-C₆-alkyl; and

wherein R' is H, OH, straight or branched chain C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, C₁-C₂₀-alkoxy or C₂-C₂₀-alkenyl;

and wherein in the above definition the symbol " --- " denotes the linkage to the hyperbranched polymer;

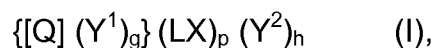
or a moiety of benzophenone-3, benzophenone-4, 2,2',4,4'-tetrahydroxy-benzophenone and 2,2'-dihydroxy-4,4'-dimethoxybenzophenone;

and a cosmetically acceptable carrier, and wherein

the hyperbranched polymer is the polycondensation or polyaddition reaction product of building blocks AB₂, which building block AB₂ is glycidol.

26. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 25, wherein the hyperbranched polymer exhibits an average degree of branching $\geq 25\%$.
27. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 25, wherein the hyperbranched polymer has an average molecular weight M_w within the range of from 500 to 50,000 g mol⁻¹.

28. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 25, wherein the hyperbranched polymer comprises an average number of 2 to 600 dendritic building blocks.
29. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 25, wherein the hyperbranched polymer comprises a structure represented by general formula (I)



wherein

Y^1 and Y^2 independently represent UV absorbing chromophores;

$\{[Q] (Y^1)_g\}$ represents the hyperbranched polymer covalently bonded to g UV absorbing chromophores Y^1 ;

$(LX)_p$ represents p linker units LX, wherein independently the distal end of each linker unit LX bears a functional group X either being

- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^2 , or
- covalently bonded to a capping group, or
- in its free reactive form,

and wherein the proximal end of each linker unit LX is covalently bonded to the hyperbranched polymer; and

wherein

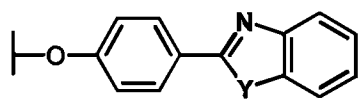
index g is an integer, wherein $0 \leq g \leq 100$;

index h is an integer, wherein $0 \leq h \leq p$; and

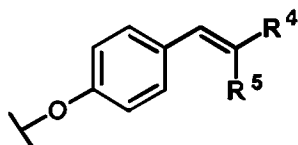
index p is an integer, wherein $0 \leq p \leq 100$;

with the proviso that $g + h \geq 3$.

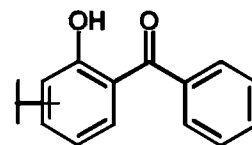
30. (currently amended) A cosmetic composition comprising a conjugate comprising a hyperbranched polymer covalently bonded to at least three UV absorbing chromophores having an UV absorption maximum $\lambda_{\max} \geq 270$ nm selected from the group consisting of the moieties represented by general formulae:



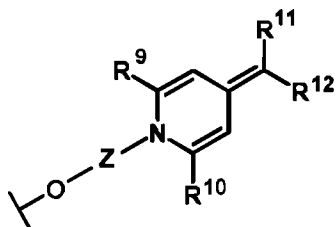
(V-A)



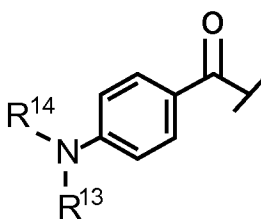
(V-B)



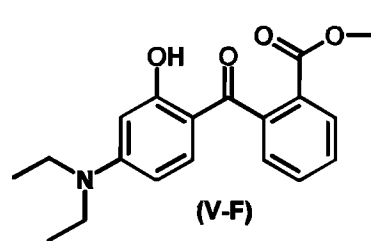
(V-C)



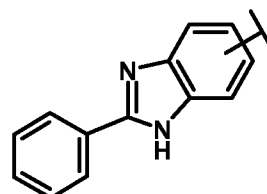
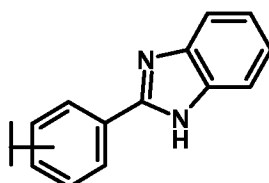
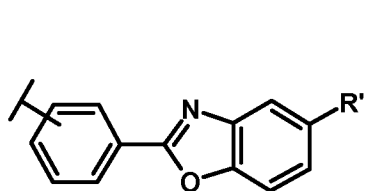
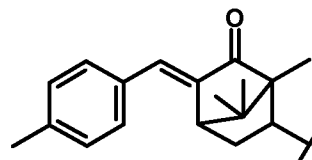
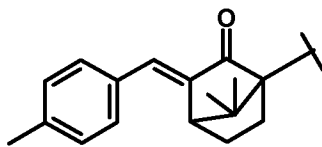
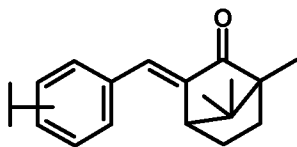
(V-D)



(V-E)



(V-F)



wherein

Y is O or NR³ wherein R³ is H, C₁-C₆-alkyl or C₂-C₆-alkenyl;

R⁴ and R⁵ are independently H, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, CO₂H, CO₂-C₁-C₆-alkyl, or R⁴ and R⁵ together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 6-camphenyl ring;

R⁹ and R¹⁰ are independently H or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R¹¹ and R¹² are independently H, C₁-C₆-alkyl, NO₂, CO₂-C₁-C₆-alkyl or CN;

Z is C₁-C₆-alkylene, optionally interrupted by 1 to 3 oxygen atoms;

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently H, OR¹⁵, NR¹⁶R¹⁷ or C₁-C₆-alkyl; and

R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are independently selected from H and C₁-C₆-alkyl; and

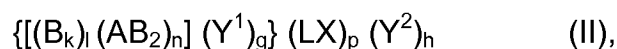
wherein R' is H, OH, straight or branched chain C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, C₁-C₂₀-alkoxy or C₂-C₂₀-alkenyl;

and wherein in the above definition the symbol " --- " denotes the linkage to the hyperbranched polymer;

or a moiety of benzophenone-3, benzophenone-4, 2,2',4,4'-tetrahydroxy-benzophenone and 2,2'-dihydroxy-4,4'-dimethoxybenzophenone;

and a cosmetically acceptable carrier, wherein

the hyperbranched polymer comprises a structure represented by general formula (II)



wherein

Y¹ and Y² independently represent UV absorbing chromophores;

(LX)_p represents p linker units LX, wherein independently the distal end of each linker unit LX bears a functional group X either being

- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y², or
- covalently bonded to a capping group, or
- in its free reactive form,

and wherein the proximal end of each linker unit LX is covalently bonded to the hyperbranched polymer; and

B_k represents a starter unit bearing k functional groups B, wherein independently each functional group B is

- covalently bonded to a functional group A of a building block AB₂, or
- covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX, or
- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y¹, or
- covalently bonded to a capping group, or
- in its free reactive form;

(AB₂)_n represents n building blocks AB₂, which building block is glycidol, each bearing a functional group A which is the electrophilic carbon atom of the oxirane and 2 independent functional groups B which are represented by

the alcoholate of deprotonated glycidol as well as the alcoholate deliberated upon ring opening, wherein independently each functional group A is

- covalently bonded to a functional group B
- of a further building block AB_2 , which building block is glycidol, or
- of the starter unit B_k , or
- covalently bonded to a capping group, or
- in its free reactive form,

and wherein independently each functional group B is

- covalently bonded to a functional group A of a further building block AB_2 , which building block is glycidol, or
- covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX, or
- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1 , or
- covalently bonded to a capping group, or
- in its free reactive form;

wherein

index g is an integer, wherein $0 \leq g \leq 100$;

index h is an integer, wherein $0 \leq h \leq p$, with the proviso that $g + h \geq 3$;

index k is an integer of from 1 to 6;

index l is 0 or 1;

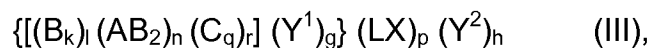
~~index m is an integer of from 2 to 4;~~

index n is an integer of from 3 to 100; and

index p is an integer wherein $0 \leq p \leq 100$. ~~$n(m-1)+k$~~

31. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 30, wherein in the hyperbranched polymer index l is 1, the starting unit B_k is trimethylolpropane and the building block AB_2 is glycidol.

32. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 29, wherein the hyperbranched polymer comprises a structure represented by general formula (III)



wherein

Y^1 and Y^2 are as defined previously;

LX is as defined previously;

B_k represents a starter unit bearing k functional groups B, wherein independently each functional group B is

- covalently bonded to a functional group C
- of a monomer C_2 or
- of a building block C_q or
- covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX , or
- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1 , or
- covalently bonded to a capping group, or
- in its free reactive form;

$(AB_2)_n$ represents n building blocks AB_2 , each bearing a functional group A and 2 independent functional groups B, wherein independently each functional group A is

- covalently bonded to a functional group C
- of a monomer C_2 or
- of a building block C_q , or
- covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX , or
- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1 , or
- covalently bonded to a capping group, or
- in its free reactive form;

and wherein independently each functional group B is

- covalently bonded to a functional group C
- of a monomer C_2 or

- of a building block C_q , or
- covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX, or
- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1 , or
- covalently bonded to a capping group, or
- in its free reactive form;

$(C_q)_r$ represents

- when index $q = 2$: r monomers C_2 or
- when index $q > 2$: r building blocks C_q

each bearing q functional groups C, wherein independently each functional group C is

- covalently bonded to a functional group A of a building block AB_2 , or
- covalently bonded to a functional group B
- of a building block AB_2 , or
- of the starter unit B_k , or
- covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX, or
- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1 , or
- covalently bonded to a capping group, or
- in its free reactive form;

wherein

index g is as defined previously;

index h is as defined previously;

index k is an integer of from 1 to 6;

index l is 0 or 1;

~~index m is an integer of from 2 to 4;~~

index n is an integer of from 3 to 100;

index p is an integer wherein $0 \leq p \leq 100$; ~~$n(m-1)+r(q-1)+k$;~~

index q is an integer of from 2 to 4; and

index r is an integer wherein $1 \leq r \leq \frac{2n}{q}$; ~~$\frac{nm}{q}$.~~

- 33. (canceled)
- 34. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 29 or 30, wherein the linker unit LX in the hyperbranched polymer comprises polyethyleneoxide or polypropyleneoxide.
- 35. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 29 or 30, wherein the hyperbranched polymer comprises 1 to 20 capping groups.
- 36. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 35, wherein the capping group is a straight or branched chain ether or ester group with 1 to 20 carbon atoms.